July 14, 2009

Dear WNW Debate Supporter,

With the beginning of the 2009-2010 debate season fast approaching, the Wichita Northwest debate program will be utilizing new tools to enhance communication between coaches, parents, and students. One of the most important of these tools is the Wichita Northwest Debate “WikiSpace,” located online at <http://wnwdebate.wikispaces.com>.

Designed to insure that information is readily available at all times to all people, this website will now be the source of information on the activity for the course of the tournament season, up to and including the state and national championship tournaments. Features currently include:

* Readily available information on upcoming tournaments. By clicking the “tournaments” link on the left side of the page, information regarding upcoming tournaments may be viewed, including sign-up sheets, the tournament invitation, the newsletter for the tournament, or “weekend update,” and finally, any permission slips that need to be completed and e-mailed. This replaces the prior method of making copies of information to be sent home with students.
* A continuously updated case list, based on competition experience, for both student and parent access. Instead of students filling out forms to be copied for others, all information on tournament competition will be placed online in real time! By clicking the “Case List” link on the left, information may be reviewed prior to an upcoming tournament. That pertains to anticipated opponents. This is an excellent resource to view and discuss the nature and arguments of the activity with your debate student!
* A resources page, on which students may add completed research assignments, with discussion boards for further references.

In addition to the above features, we anticipate over the course of the coming debate season that we will be adding features, including pictures from our travels to different tournaments around the state, awards and accomplishments of our teams from competition, and a “parent page” to view for upcoming news (including any classroom assignments and due dates!).

This is an exciting time for the Wichita Northwest debate program as we implement these changes, and we look forwards to your thoughts and feedback. Please, take a moment to examine the new Wiki. Let us know what you think, either by posting to the discussion page “for parents” or by e-mailing me at [swingfield@usd259.net](mailto:swingfield@usd259.net).

Sincerely,

Shawn Wingfield